

## CLAIMS

1. An air conditioner (10) that processes the sensible heat load and the latent heat load in an indoor space by performing a vapor compression type refrigeration cycle operation, comprising:

5           a control unit (80) that performs priority control operation that prioritizes processing at least one of said sensible heat load and said latent heat load from startup until normal operation is started.

2. The air conditioner (10) as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

10           a detector unit (3b, 4, 5b) that detects at least one of the temperature and the humidity in said indoor space.

3. The air conditioner (10) as recited in Claim 2, wherein

          said control unit (80) switches from said priority control operation to said normal operation if said detector unit (3b, 4, 5b) detects that at least one of the temperature and the humidity in said indoor space has reached a preset temperature and humidity.

15   4. The air conditioner (10) as recited in any one claim of Claim 1 through Claim 3, further comprising:

          a timer unit (82), wherein the time limit for performing said priority control operation is set;

wherein,

20           said control unit (80) switches from said priority control operation to said normal operation based on the time set in said timer unit (82).

5. The air conditioner (10) as recited in any one claim of Claim 1 through Claim 4, wherein

          said control unit (80) switches from said priority control operation to said normal operation if there is a manual input from the user.

25   6. The air conditioner (10) as recited in Claim 2, wherein

          even during said priority control operation, said control unit (80) switches, based on the detection result from said detector unit (3b, 4, 5b), from priority control operation that prioritizes processing said sensible heat load to priority control operation that prioritizes processing said latent heat load, or from priority control operation that prioritizes processing said latent heat load to priority control operation that prioritizes processing said sensible heat load.

7. The air conditioner (10) as recited in any one claim of Claim 1 through Claim 6, wherein

said control unit (80) determines, based on an initial setting, whether to perform said priority control operation that prioritizes processing said sensible heat load or to processing said latent heat load at startup.

8. The air conditioner (10) as recited in any one claim of Claim 1 through Claim 7, further comprising:

an adsorbent that adsorbs moisture in the air; and  
a heat exchanger (3, 5), wherein the refrigerant that flows in a refrigerant circuit (1), which constitutes said refrigeration cycle, is supplied;

wherein,

said control unit (80) performs operation while alternating said heat exchanger (3, 5), every time a prescribed batch switching time elapses, between regeneration operation, wherein said heat exchanger (3, 5) is made to function as a condenser and desorbs the moisture from said adsorbent, and an adsorption operation, wherein said heat exchanger (3, 5) is made to function as an evaporator and adsorbs the moisture in the air onto said adsorbent.

9. The air conditioner (10) as recited in Claim 8, wherein

if processing said sensible heat load is prioritized in said priority control operation, then said control unit (80) performs at least one of the following: control that sets said batch switching time so that it is longer than during said normal operation, and control that sets a condensing temperature target value of the refrigerant in said refrigeration cycle so that it is higher than during said normal operation.

10. The air conditioner (10) as recited in Claim 8, wherein

if processing said latent heat load is prioritized in said priority control operation, then said control unit (80) performs at least one of the following: control that sets said batch switching time so that it is shorter than during said normal operation, and control that sets a condensing temperature target value of the refrigerant in said refrigeration cycle so that it is higher than during said normal operation.

11. The air conditioner (10) as recited in Claim 8, wherein

a circulating operation is performed wherein said sensible heat load or said latent heat load of the air taken in from said indoor space is processed, said processed air is exhausted to the indoor space, said sensible heat load or said latent heat load is supplied to the air taken in from the outdoor space and then exhausted thereto.

12. The air conditioner (10) as recited in Claim 11, wherein

if processing said sensible heat load is prioritized in said priority control operation, then said control unit (80) performs at least one of the following: control that sets said batch switching time so that it is longer than during said normal operation, control that sets a condensing temperature target value of the refrigerant in said refrigeration cycle so that it is higher than during said normal operation, and control that increases the circulation of air taken in from said outdoor space.

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13. The air conditioner (10) as recited in Claim 11, wherein

if processing said latent heat load is prioritized in said priority control operation, then said control unit (80) performs at least one of the following: control that sets said batch switching time so that it is shorter than during said normal operation, and control that sets a condensing temperature target value of the refrigerant in said refrigeration cycle so that it is higher than during said normal operation.

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14. A method of controlling an air conditioner (10) that processes the sensible heat load and the latent heat load in an indoor space by performing a vapor compression type refrigeration cycle operation, comprising the step of:

15 performing priority control operation that prioritizes, from startup until normal operation begins, at least one of the following: processing said sensible heat load, and processing said latent heat load.